

REMARKS

Claims 21 and 30 have been amended, claims 28-29 and 32-33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claim 37 has been added. Accordingly, claims 21-26, 30-31 and 35-37 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 21, 30 and 37 are independent.

As for the amendments, Applicants merely incorporate allowable subject matter with respect to claims 28, 29 and 33. Namely, the amendments present allowable subject matter in dependent claims 28, 29 and 33 according to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decision which affirmed the rejections against independent claims 21 and 30, but reversed all rejections against claims 28, 29 and 33.

For example, the features of claim 28 (now canceled) have been incorporated into independent claim 21, and therefore, claim 21 and all of the claims that depend therefrom (claims 22-26) are believed to be in condition for allowance. Additionally, the features of claim 33 and intervening claim 32 (now canceled) have been incorporated into independent claim 30, therefore, independent claim 30 and all of the claims that depend therefrom (claim 31 and claims 35-36) are believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, newly added independent claim 37 incorporates the features of original claim 29 (now canceled) and its intervening claim 28 that are indicated as allowable subject matters therefore, claim 37 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 21-26, 30-31 and 35-37 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

A full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action, and all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot.

Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable, and the application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below if it would expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/hae-chan park/
Hae-Chan Park
Reg. No. 50,114

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CUSTOMER NUMBER: 58027

H.C. Park & Associates, PLC
8500 Leesburg Pike
Suite 7500
Vienna, VA 22182
Tel: 703-288-5105
Fax: 703-288-5139
HCP/SSK/kca